

Victoria Street Newz

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DISSENT:

The expression or holding of opinions at variance with those previously, commonly, or officially held.

Students, their supporters, and independent media are being harassed and abused by police across Canada as they peacefully and non-violently express their dissent. Story on page 8.

Now Hiring: "Tens of Thousands" of Americans for Pipeline Jobs in Western Canada

by Zoe Blunt

A company in Marietta, Georgia claims to have an "exclusive employment initiative with Alberta" to fill "an immediate need for tens of thousands of workers" on Canadian pipelines -- apparently contradicting the recent flood of "pipeline jobs for Canadians" advertising.¹

"Though America's Keystone Pipeline is delayed, the Canadians are moving forward on their side of the border and have an immediate need for tens of thousands of workers," says Ted Daywalt, CEO of the Georgia-based VetJobs.²

VetJobs has "secured an exclusive employment initiative with Alberta, Canada, that could see thousands of US veterans heading north to work on their oil pipeline," boasts an announcement circulated

by Veterans of Foreign Wars in July 2.³

Keystone XL would pipe tar sands crude from Alberta to Texas. But the US government put the project on hold some months ago. Meanwhile, tar sands companies and the Canadian government are facing fierce opposition to pipelines through BC to Kitimat on the coast.

The VetJobs website currently lists 880 ads for "Opportunity Awaits," an initiative of the Edmonton Economic Development Corporation (EEDC), which partnered with VetsJobs for its hiring campaign.

Renee Worrell, communications manager for EEDC, confirms that the company is planning to fill 114,000 jobs, but notes the figure includes employment across Canada until 2020.

continued on page 7

About Street Newz

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Founded in 2004, the *Victoria Street Newz* welcomes written submissions including personal stories, interviews, event reviews, cartoons, poetry, photographs, or artwork, but we can't guarantee everything will be published. We reserve the right to edit, and will not print anything libelous, racist, sexist, or homophobic. Letters sent to the editor are assumed to be for publication, must include phone number or email (if possible, for confirmation) and may be edited for length. You can publish using a pseudonym, or anonymously.

We are devoted to a triple bottom line philosophy - concerned about our environmental and social, as well as financial, well-being.

You can contribute to social change by supporting the *Victoria Street Newz* team, by pondering the root causes of poverty, and by working for peaceful, non-violent change.

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just another rant

janinebandcroft.blogspot.com

Regardless of whether you're hearing about it or not, the great global uprising, sparked by the 2011 Arab Spring, continues. Governments and their police forces have aligned in their efforts to stop the movement but, as the poster says, "you can't arrest an idea." The revolution continues.

While unprecedented heatwaves, droughts, and wildfires rage throughout the USA, Canadian activists are preparing a journey north to stand in the way of corporate efforts to bulldoze through the Great Bear Rainforest, one of the last remaining intact temperate rainforests on the planet. Enbridge wants to further disrupt the earth's ecology by clearing a pathway for two pipelines to transport bitumen from Alberta's tarsands to wreak havoc along BC's beautiful coastline.

Individually, we activists throw ourselves into our work. Collectively, we seek solutions. While some brave souls risk their lives on the front line, others educate and inform, working for peace, earth, and justice everywhere. We hold onto hope that we can create a brighter future. Sometimes it seems the goal is clear, but the pathway is muddled. How do we build the better world? How can we work pro-actively while working to stop the machine of destruction? What's certain is that the foundation we establish now will affect the world we create for the future. The process, every step of the way, is equally as important as the vision we hold.

Many are looking critically at governments. Is it possible to democratize them, or are they inherently flawed beyond redemption?

As in so many previous years, the September issue of the *Victoria Street Newz* will offer an anarchist theme, to coincide with the annual Anarchist Bookfair. This year the bookfair is scheduled for September 8th & 9th at the Fernwood NRG Community Hall and this year, like so many before it, I continue with my personal philosophical struggle - is it anarchy, or socialism, that might lift us out of this quagmire? Or, perhaps, a little bit of both? Certainly status quo business as usual, the pathway that's led us to this global climate change catastrophe, is a road we need to abandon, and soon!

Anarchists tell us it's not possible to build a true democracy, with equal distribution of wealth and resources, within the colonialist hierarchy that exists. Socialists vary in their belief about whether and how we can work to transform the current political system, but overall their focus is about reclaiming the means of production so all workers have access to the profits that result from their labour.

It reminds me of a conversation I had with a cycling advocate recently. Ultimately our society will be safer, and healthier, when we cyclists (and rollerbladers, skateboarders, scooterists) can travel along dedicated or divided roadways rather than risking life and limb travelling alongside fast moving slabs of metal. In the meantime, simple bike lanes provide at least some acknowledgment that cyclists do in fact have a right to be on the road. But if we focus our demands on the simplest structural solution (re-issuing space on already existing roads by painting a line and creating a bike lane), how will we reach the ultimate solution of entirely separate roadways for non-vehicular traffic?

Or, consider the discussion about food banks. People are hungry, they need to be fed, so kind hearted people respond. The first food bank opened in Edmonton in 1981. It was meant to provide a temporary solution. By 1987 there were approximately 450 food banks across Canada and the Food Banks Canada organization was created to "enable an effective food bank community that addresses the short term need for food and longer term solutions to reduce hunger in Canada." All these years later increasing numbers of people, victimized by a failed economic and political system, are flooding to the "short term" food banks. Ultimately we need to build a society where food is available to everyone equally, as the grassroots and anarchist organization Food Not Bombs proposes, or as the socialist government of Cuba provides.

Then there's the shelters versus housing debate. Advocates are continually lobbying governments to support cooperative, subsidized, or co-housing projects but people can, and do, freeze to death waiting for those. During Canada's cold winters people need shelter NOW. Do we put energy and resources into building temporary homeless shelters, or by establishing

more of those are we merely institutionalizing the idea that homelessness will always exist? Tent Cities, or a Dignity Village style solution provides both a temporary solution and a jumping off point to more permanent housing without imprinting the world with shelter structures.

Sometimes socialist solutions, working within the current structure to distribute resources and wealth more equitably, seem appropriate. Other times it seems pure anarchy, the "do it yourself" solutions, are best. Either way, I believe we'll all benefit if the new society's foundation is grounded with a peaceful non-violent tradition and pathway.

The recently published booklet, *Know Your Rights At Work: A BC Employee Field Guide*, compiled and interpreted by the Vancouver Island Industrial Workers of the World² (or Wobblies, as they're known), was created for anyone earning an hourly wage. When DJ Alperovitz told me about the workshops and seminars the Wobblies are hosting to inform mostly young workers about their rights, he said they rarely get through the entire booklet in a single session. "It's shocking," he said, "how few young employees are even aware these rights exist." Invariably someone will share a story about rights violations in their workplace, or share stories of discrimination and harassment, and the workshop leaders put down the booklet and encourage a discussion about what these young workers are experiencing. Quite often workers aren't aware of their legal rights, detailed in the provincial *Employee Standards Act*.

For example, the *Know Your Rights* booklet informs that your employer must prove "just cause" to terminate your employment without notice or compensation. They've no right to fire you:

- if you get pregnant
- if you take time off for pregnancy and/or parental leave
- if you take leave for family reasons of health, terminal illness, or death
- for discriminatory reasons (ie: ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability)
- for filing a complaint under employment law
- for taking part in organizing or unionizing activity.

If you do get fired from a job you've held for three months or more that is not under a contracted amount of time, you have the right to written notice:

- a week ahead of time for 3 to 12 months of consecutive employment
- two weeks for over 12 months consecutive employment
- three weeks after three years of employment, plus one week for every additional year up to eight weeks' notice.

Once you get notice, your boss can't change any condition of your job, including your wage rate. If you're on vacation, leave, temporary layoff, strike or lockout, or unavailable to work due to medical reasons during the notice period, your boss must either suspend the notice period until the employee returns to work, or pay that employee compensation in lieu of notice, also known as termination pay.³

DJ made it clear that the Wobblies aren't offering legal advice, or unionizing individual workplaces (though they are interested in promoting the "one big union" of all workers. Through the workshops, though, they're focussed on educating workers about the rights that already exist. Historically, unions formed naturally as workers banded together to achieve common goals and maintain work and safety standards, a minimum wage, the five day work week, appropriate holiday and break time, statutory holidays, pensions, injury and unemployment insurance, and much more.

Our ancestors struggled and died for these rights. They worked within the structure that exists to create something collectively beneficial.

In September we'll ponder anarchist contributions to society, solutions resulting from working outside the political and economic societal structures. I invite you to share your knowledge of anarchist history, and your anarchist strategies and visions for future. Send your writings, poetry, photos by August 3rd and I'll do my best to fit it all into the September issue.

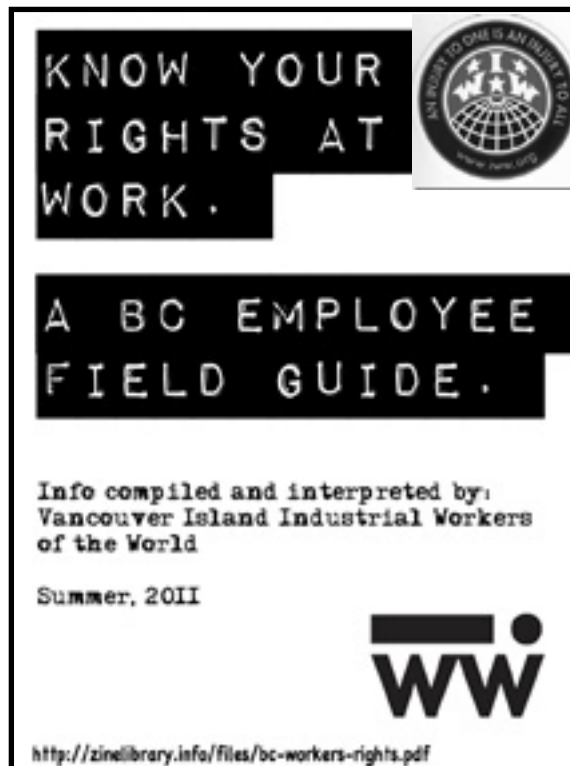
Sources:

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_Banks_Canada

² Industrial Workers of the World: iww.ca

³ *Know Your Rights At Work: A BC Employee Field Guide*:
zinelibrary.info/files/bc-workers-rights.pdf

Janine noticed a gap in the world of alternative media in 2004, and created the *Victoria Street Newz* with help from family and friends. Her greatest lesson in anarchy emerged when all three levels of government refused to support her vision.



Innocence Found Guilty: Nyki Kish needs your help

by Comrade Black

In a prison cell in Ontario sits a young womyn who looks just like any of the other street kids you see when you walk down town. In fact only 7 or 8 years ago you may have passed her on the streets of Victoria, or given her some change, or shared a meal with her at the soup kitchen or the Y Van. In 2003 Nicole Kish travelled through Victoria as a 16 year old girl with her 2 dogs, before heading out to go fruit picking in the interior. Now she is serving a life sentence in the womyn's unit of the Kitchener Maximum Security Prison for little more than looking homeless.

Nyki is a 24 year old published author, poet, and musician, and anti-prison activist who co-founded Books to Bars, as well as a writers publication called *Bound For Glory*.

It was on Nyki's 21 birthday just after returning from travelling in the US that her and her friends would be assaulted by 2 men, one of which, an ex-streetfighter who ran a online porn company; she would later be convicted of stabbing to death. Convicted despite a complete lack of any physical evidence, and in direct contradiction of eye witness testimony. Convicted even after police "lost" the video evidence from the nearby surveillance cameras.

I interviewed Nyki by mail from her prison cell in Ontario.

CB: Would you tell us a bit about the prison condition where you are? What does an average day look like for you. How does prison life differ for womyn imprisoned in this country?

There are 5 women's federal prisons in Canada, and I am held at the one in Ontario's 'Grand Valley' in the maximum security unit. Max units were added to the prisons in the early 2000s, and are extremely oppressive, Americanized 'supermax' inspired ranges that resemble segregation units in their structures and conditions. Max units confine anyone sentenced to life, violent prisoners, and most prisoners with mental illness. We are held in small, florescent-lit, hallway shaped pads; within each pad are 5 cells and 9 bunks. Not built for 2 people per cell, double bunks have been hastily installed in the last 2 years to address the influx of prisoner population that Harper has created. The effects have been devastating. Women are being forced to double bunk, confined in 6 foot cells for 14.5 hours per day. I've had to double bunk for most of my 13 months in max, and I've avoided any problems, but most women aren't so lucky. Fights are frequent, and result in the people who pleaded not to be double bunked to avoid violence in the first place being punished further, both by having to stay in max unit longer, which perpetuates the problem, and often by being released from prison with a maximum security status. For the portions of the days we are not confined to the cells, we sit in the pod area, short the possibility of an hour outside in the evenings. It is a very isolating, negative environment.

CB: How has all this affected your opinions of the police, courts, and prison system? Has it changed anything since before you were charged?

That's a hard question. I think stories like mine really speak to the dangers our system enables. I have never believed in the capability of humanity to benefit from a society centered on power imbalance: Centered on some governing, policing, and especially imprisoning others. Now though, now I see the worst effect of our problems, I see so much human potential being stifled and trampled upon every day. It's very hard to stomach. I think we really need to come together as a culture and question what we are doing to each other, because when you have to stare at so much suffering every day, when you experience it, as I am, the destructive nature of this prison system becomes really apparent. So while I've always mistrusted mass incarceration, large and powerful police forces, and our courts who clearly serve to benefit a select few, I think I understand their effects a lot better since being charged.

CB: You are a prison activist? Were you a prison activist before you were arrested?

Yeah, I've been doing anti-prison and prisoner support work for a while now. Before I was arrested I was a traveler, so activism was a big part of my life, though I never saw it as activism. Prison struggles kind of naturally focused in my life from earlier environmental and anti-capitalist work, especially when I lived in the states where prison struggles are so obviously amplified, but it's been since my arrest, shortly after I returned to Canada that prison struggles have dominated my time.

Since then I've really dug my heals into advocating for prison access to books, through starting an effort in Hamilton called *Books to Bars* we now support 13 jails and prison libraries, so that's really special to me. Other than that, it's a lot of awareness raising around prison issues, connecting with and supporting imprisoned people, creating resistance networks and building arts-based actions from the inside.

CB: Your family is also now all involved in prison activism?

So much! *Books to Bars* could never have taken off without them. I started that after my arrest which could have been really problematic, but they more than supported it, they helped it blossom, becoming outspoken advocates and patient volunteers, donating their time and talents to support the imprisoned population, who they weren't exposed to before I was charged. Before I was charged, they believed the system worked. Now they know that is just not the case, they know that the police don't protect, and that the courts are not about justice, and

they've really become an unstoppable force.

CB: You wrote an article about the Omnibus Crime bill a while back. Can you talk about how the policies of the Conservative Government under Steven Harper have impacted those held in captivity?

Canadian prisons are overfilling, mostly with marginalized people, namely poor people, aboriginal people, and increasingly people who have newly immigrated to Canada. Between this government criminalizing so many people, the Omnibus bill, and the recent federal budget, a terrible crisis has developed. We just learned that our pay is being cut by 40% in addition we will have to pay an undetermined bi-weekly fee to have access to a phone, not to use the phone, this is a separate cost, only to be provided the possibility of buying phone time. But most mothers cannot now afford to call home to their children, and they are working full time in here! Many are working for CORCAN – a Crown corporation – but regardless of where one works, everyone works for less than \$7 per day, soon less than \$4, and that's before our mandatory cuts are deducted. Less than \$4 a day – and that's the highest possible pay –will have to cover phone access, postage, clothing, food costs... People here have nothing, and now they will leave with less. And that is really just one minor issue in a sea of problems. If this government's aim is to destroy one's chances of successful reintegration, to permanently displace people from their families, to keep already disenfranchised people disempowered and uneducated, and to foster poverty nationwide, then they are doing a great job.

I think if more people knew that, they would not support this government or their crime bill.

CB: Are you eligible for parole? Where is your case at now?

My paperwork says I am not eligible for parole until 2023, but in truth parole is not an option for me. The fact that I did not commit the murder I am convicted of is constantly held against me. The prison will not accept that I am innocent; instead they tell me that I cannot move through the system until responsibility is taken for the crime. And I will never live that lie ... so mine is a life sentence.

As for now I am waiting for my appeal to be filed. I think expectedly, my faith in the courts is low, but I have to stay hopeful. Hope is all I have, and a lot of people out there know it wasn't me, and there is a lot of evidence to show that, so ... we'll see.

CB: You eat a plant based diet, have you had any issues with food since being put in prison?

Oh, food is an issue. It's a constant battle having to eat food I don't want to put into my body, food that is industrially produced, food that supports industries that I don't support, that contributes to environmental degradation. You know, it's also hard because it's an unsupported issue. Eating according to values is really unrecognized in here. Any living according to values is unrecognized in here, I mean, the place barely recycles. So it's tough, it's really tough.

CB: How can those interested in supporting you be of help?

The most I could ask for is people to spread the word. We stayed quiet throughout the court process, believing it would ultimately work. That was our biggest mistake, not speaking out sooner. So learning the facts and sharing my story, there is a lot of power in that.

CB: So if people want to write you a letter, what kinds of things are you interested in?

Hmmm I'd love any letter! Well, not creepy ones! I am super interested in arts, poetry and music, animals, nature, and I especially love getting zines on any subject. I do the library work in here, and try to keep a good zine collection for the ladies. Um, articles about current events are also super rad. Anything though is really wonderful.

CB: Any other thoughts or comments you would like to share with the readers here in Victoria?

Yes. I would just encourage people to get involved and learn about what's happening within the prisons and jails near them, and I would love it if people learned about my case of course. And, um, always support your local books to prisoners' organizations. Yes.

If you are interested in learning more about Nyki and her case, or if you are interested in getting involved, check out her support website www.freenyki.org. To write to Nyki please address letters to:

Grand Valley,
1575 Homer Watson Blvd,
Kitchener, Ontario, N2P 2C5
Max Unit, Atten: Nicole Kish

Comrade Black is a green anarchist community organizer, performance poet, and writer, active in movements for animal liberation, sobriety, prison abolition, decolonization, and queer & gender resistance. Comrade has lived over half their life on the streets and struggles with the combined barriers of disabilities and poverty.



7/7 AFTER SEVEN: BOMBS AND LIES IN LONDON

(Second of Three Parts)

By Gordon Pollard

In last month's *Street Newz*, we began looking at some of the shocking revelations in Dr. Nick Kollerstrom's controversial new book, *Terror on the Tube*, which makes a compelling case that the bombings in London on July 7th, 2005, were not really carried out by four young Muslim "suicide terrorists" but by black ops commandos of the British army's Force Reconnaissance Regiment to whip up public fear and hysteria so the "war on terrorism" could keep rolling along.

Let's now look at seven more of the most important points made by Kollerstrom:

• *Some of the key "evidence" in the 7/7 saga has changed many times over the past seven years while other "evidence" has been suppressed or destroyed by the authorities – some "evidence" has also magically appeared while other "evidence" has magically disappeared.*

Obviously it should have been an easy task for the authorities to carry out basic chemical tests and tell us clearly and unequivocally what type of explosives were used on 7/7. Instead, however, they changed their story about the explosives countless times, spinning around in so many different directions that even a whirling dervish would have been hard pressed to keep up with them.

As we've seen earlier, the original story (and almost certainly the true one) was that C4 military-grade explosives were used, but that story changed five days after 7/7 when the authorities claimed the four alleged suicide bombers had carried out the explosions using the volatile, much lower-grade explosive TATP, which they had supposedly brewed themselves in a bathtub in Leeds.

As time went by, however, the TATP story became untenable for a number of reasons (which Kollerstrom explains in detail in the book), so the authorities started telling us the "suicide bombers" must instead have used some type of concoction involving hydrogen peroxide and black pepper.

At the official inquest into 7/7 in late 2010 and early 2011, the government's "experts" on explosives fluttered about like confused butterflies before finally concluding that the four young Muslims had apparently put together "some mysterious mixture of explosive chemicals that had probably never been used before."

So today, seven years after the bombings, the authorities still haven't provided a straight honest answer to the simple but critically important question of what explosives were used on July 7th, 2005.

Obviously all of the questions about the explosives could have been cleared up by carrying out chemical tests on the bodies of those killed in the explosions and on the wreckage at the blast sites. But at the official inquest the authorities claimed, astonishingly, that no chemical examinations had been carried out on the bodies of any of the 52 persons who perished in the blasts. And as for the bombed trains, the authorities quickly ordered that all the wreckage evidence be destroyed, before it could be examined or any chemical tests could be carried out on it by independent observers and analysts.

This was, sadly, typical of how practically all of the 7/7 "evidence" was handled. As we've already seen, ID of the alleged bombers magically turned up at all of the blast sites while some other key evidence magically vanished.

For example, the times of all trains passing through King's Cross Station on the morning of 7/7 had been recorded in a handwritten document, "The Train Register," kept at Earl's Court Control Centre. But that important document turned out to be of no use in determining what happened on 7/7 because, according to the authorities, the pages for July 7th, 2005, somehow mysteriously disappeared.

• *Even though London has more surveillance cameras in operation than any other city in the world, the authorities were able to produce no clear pictures – and only a few suspiciously fuzzy ones – showing the "suicide bombers" in London on 7/7. Moreover, some of those photos were clearly "doctored" and some time-and-date stamps were falsified.*

Although the evidence clearly indicates that "suicide bombers" Shehzad Tanweer, Germaine Lindsay and Hasib Hussein travelled from Luton to London on the morning of 7/7, there is serious reason to doubt whether the "ring-leader" Mohammed Sidique Khan accompanied them. Obviously, however, the authorities had to be able to show that Khan was in London on 7/7 to make their four-bomber story credible – and that is why a surveillance videotape supposedly taken at the Luton railway station that morning is a vitally important piece of evidence.

That video shows blurry images of Shehzad Tanweer, Germaine Lindsay and Hasib Hussein in the foreground and a very dark, almost unrecognizable image of Mohammed Sidique Khan in the background. Kollerstrom describes in great detail what happened when he had the video examined at one of London's leading photo-analysis laboratories. When the video was subjected to minute examination under high magnification, the photo expert discovered a number of telltale signs that it was a fake – the image of Khan had clearly been inserted into the video to create the false impression that he had accompanied the other three men.

And this phony Luton video wasn't the only example of how the authorities used photographic hocus-pocus to incriminate Khan. Another videotape taken when Khan had visited London on June 28th, 2005, was distributed to the news media and shown to millions of people on television – but only after officials had removed the time-and-date stamps so the video could be misrepresented to supposedly show Khan in London on 7/7.

As Kollerstrom observes, this photographic sleight of hand tells us a great deal about what really happened, or, more to the point, what didn't really happen in London on 7/7 – if Mohammed Sidique Khan had really been in London that morning, the authorities obviously would have been able to produce some genuine photos of him and would have had no need to resort to such fakery and misrepresentation.

• *The falsification of surveillance photos to incriminate the four young Muslims on 7/7 is particularly disturbing in view of the fact that the surveillance system in the London underground on 7/7 was controlled, not by British government transport officials, but by a private Israeli security company, Verint Systems, which was headed by Dan Bodner and Kobi Alexander, who were both rabidly anti-Arab former senior officers in the Israeli Army.*

As Kollerstrom notes, it is almost beyond belief that two individuals as sleazy as Bodner and Alexander and a company with such a shady reputation as Verint Systems could have been entrusted with responsibility for the security surveillance system in the London underground.

The potential for a conflict of interest, at the very least, should have been obvious to the British authorities in September, 2004, when they hired this bellicose anti-Arab duo and their company, a fully-owned subsidiary of the Israeli security firm Comverse Technology, which has long worked hand-in-glove with Israel's Mossad intelligence agency.

Kollerstrom describes in chilling detail the tangled web of international intrigue and nefarious activities in which both Bodner and Alexander had been involved over the years – and he directs some especially stinging criticism at Bodner.

"At the time of 7/7," Kollerstrom writes, "the London underground surveillance system was being run by a senior ex-Israeli army officer, whose former employers were engaged in a largely covert war against Arabs for land, and whose present employers were wanted on more than 40 criminal counts and were implicated in a number of multi-million-dollar fraud and conspiracy cases."

With Bodner and Alexander controlling the surveillance system on 7/7, it should not have come as a surprise to anyone that a number of photos were falsified to incriminate the four young Muslims. These two foxes "guarding" the henhouse were obviously not going to be looking out for the best interests of the chickens!

• *Another disturbing aspect of the 7/7 saga is the fact that Israeli Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who happened to be in London that day, received advance warning of the bomb blasts, according to a report on Israeli Army News that afternoon and a later statement by General Meir Dagan, a former head of Israel's Mossad.*

Indeed, the fact that Netanyahu was in London that day is one of many strange "coincidences" in the 7/7 story. The hell-bent-for-war Israeli prime minister, who was finance minister at the time, just happened to be in the city on 7/7 to speak at the annual meeting of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange along with his old buddy, former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani, who was mainly interested in drumming up business for the security consulting company he had formed to cash in on the fear and hysteria generated by the phony 9/11 "terrorist attacks."

At about 3:30 p.m. (London time) on 7/7, Israeli Army News carried a startling report that Scotland Yard had warned the Israeli embassy in London about ten minutes before the bombings that Netanyahu should stay inside his room at the Russell Hotel. And about two weeks later a similar report in a number of European papers, including Bild am Sonntag in Germany, quoted General Meir Dagan, a former head of the Mossad, as saying he had personally telephoned Netanyahu with a warning a few minutes before the bombings.

Not surprisingly, Israeli Army News, General Dagan and Scotland Yard all later back-pedalled furiously, insisting they had not had any advance knowledge of the bombings. But the Israeli radio report is on the public record and there is no reason to believe General Dagan was misquoted.

Moreover, questions have also been raised about another strange "coincidence" that occurred on 7/7: the fact that the location where the No. 30 bus was bombed in Tavistock Square just happened to be right in front of a building housing two major Israeli security companies, Fortress GB and ICTS-UK. Investigative journalist Christopher Bollyn, who has studied this issue closely, believes ICTS-UK might have been involved in the controversial "anti-terror drills" conducted on 7/7 by Peter Power's company, Visor Consulting.

In any case, if an honest public inquiry is ever held into 7/7, all of these matters should be thoroughly investigated.

• *Yet another very disturbing aspect of the 7/7 saga was the fact that overall control of the London Transport System on 7/7 was in the hands of Bob Kiley, a notorious American black ops specialist who had spent many years at the highest echelons of the CIA helping mastermind numerous acts of cloak-and-dagger skulduggery around the world.*

Clearly the monumental fraud perpetrated in London on July 7th, 2005, couldn't have been carried out without the support, or at least the acquiescence, of the person in charge of the London Transport System that day – and that is why it was so important to Tony Blair et al to have Bob Kiley, the American ex-CIA superhawk extraordinaire, in control of the system.

As Commissioner of Transport for London, Kiley was, in effect, czar of the London underground, controlling access to all stations, trains, tracks, signalling equipment, bridges, tunnels, lifts and escalators – so he was in a perfect strategic position to facilitate the 7/7 fraud.

Indeed, black ops were nothing new to Kiley, who was fanatically committed to carrying out the same agenda being pursued by Dick Cheney's neo-conservative cabal in Washington. As executive assistant to CIA Director Richard Helms in the 1960s, Kiley had been one of the chief architects of the CIA's clandestine operations around the world.

• *There is a lot of credible evidence that a mysterious shooting incident occurred at Canary Wharf in the dockside area of East London on the morning of 7/7 and some researchers who have studied this incident believe at least three of the alleged suicide bombers, and possibly all four, were executed at that time by British black ops commandos.*

continued on page 5

7/7 AFTER SEVEN ...

continued from page 4

One of the murkiest but most fascinating pieces in the 7/7 puzzle is the question of what happened at Canary Wharf that morning. The mystery began at about 10:30 a.m. when ITV News, and later some other news outlets, broadcast a report that three terrorists allegedly involved in the bombings had been shot and killed by police at Canary Wharf. Later in the day, however, that report was “airbrushed out of history” and to this day the official story remains that nothing unusual happened at Canary Wharf on 7/7.

Actually, however, it is quite clear something very dramatic and very important did happen at Canary Wharf that morning. Many people working in the area say there was an atmosphere of crisis and emergency, with hundreds of police and military personnel swarming about.

A large part of the Canary Wharf area was cordoned off with yellow police-tape for several hours and there were persistent, though unconfirmed, reports of gunfire being heard. Moreover, the 8,000 workers in the 44-story HSBC Tower at Canary Wharf were told to stay away from the windows and remain in the building for at least six hours.

One of the leading 7/7 researchers, Anthony John Hill, who has studied the Canary Wharf issue closely, thinks it is likely at least three of the alleged bombers (Shehzad Tanweer, Germaine Lindsay and Hasib Hussein) were instructed to proceed to Canary Wharf as part of their participation in the “anti-terror drills” conducted by Visor Consulting and that they were executed there by commandos of the Force Reconnaissance Regiment. It is also possible, but much less likely, that alleged 7/7 ring-leader Mohammed Sidique Khan went to Canary Wharf. As we’ve noted earlier, it is by no means certain Khan was in London on 7/7 and he might very well have been killed elsewhere – possibly even on the day before 7/7.

In any case, if any honest public inquiry is ever carried out into what happened in London on July 7th, 2005, that investigation won’t be complete without addressing all of the unanswered questions about what happened that morning at Canary Wharf.

• ***The two stories that the authorities told about the alleged suicide bombers supposedly leaving large quantities of explosives in a car at a parking lot in Luton and in a bathtub at a house in Leeds changed so many times and are so full of contradictions and absurdities that there is every reason to believe they are both totally fabricated.***

Of all the bizarre characters in the 7/7 drama, perhaps the strangest was a mysterious Egyptian chemist by the name of Dr. Magdy El-Nashar who, we are told, was renting the house at 18 Alexander Grove in Leeds at which the “suicide bombers” allegedly brewed their lethal explosives in a bathtub.

Very little is known about the shadowy Dr. El-Nashar since he supposedly flew off to Cairo shortly before 7/7, leaving behind a bathtub full of the highly volatile explosive TATP in the sweltering summer heat. Astonishingly, the British authorities showed no interest at all in pursuing him, not even bothering to send an extradition request to Egypt.

Seven years after the bombings, we also know very little about what, if anything was actually found in Dr. El-Nashar’s notorious bathtub. The original story about 22 pounds of TATP changed many times, to different types and various amounts of other explosive concoctions and even to boxes of black pepper. Whatever credibility the bathtub story might have had at the beginning has long since gone down the drain, so to speak!

According to the authorities, the four “suicide bombers,” who seemed to have a strange penchant for leaving explosives all over the place, also left behind a cache of bombs in a small Nissan Micra car at a parking lot in Luton – though details about that story also changed many times.

Five days after 7/7 police reportedly found three “homemade bombs” left by the “suicide bombers” in a small car at the Luton railway station – but the number of bombs was later changed to nine and still later to sixteen! In any case, police said they destroyed all three

(or nine or sixteen) of these bombs in controlled demolitions.

Not surprisingly, no independent witnesses were allowed to observe as the police examined and later destroyed these

“bombs.” Nor was it ever determined, or at least publicly disclosed, exactly what type of “explosives” were in the vehicle. We are told to just blindly believe the story the authorities gave us and not ask any embarrassing questions.

As Kollerstrom observes, the whole bombs-in-the-car story is patently ridiculous. “The Nissan Micra,” he notes, “was a very small car and it is absurd to believe that three large young men, with huge rucksacks (and probably also refrigerating equipment to cool the TATP) plus as many as sixteen unstable bombs, could have fitted into the vehicle and that it could then have been driven from Leeds to Luton.”

The stories about the TATP in the bathtub and car are reminiscent, of course, of the trails of “incriminating evidence” supposedly left behind by two of history’s other most notable patsies: Mohamed Atta, the alleged ring-leader of the 9/11 “hijackers”, and Lee Harvey Oswald, the alleged assassin of John Kennedy.

In next month’s *Street Newz*, when we conclude our look at the sordid but fascinating story of what really happened in London on July 7th, 2005, we will see that:

- None of the four “suicide bombers” had shown any extremist tendencies before 7/7, but after their deaths they were demonized as “wicked Islamic jihadists” in a relentless propaganda campaign by British, American and Israeli intelligence agencies.

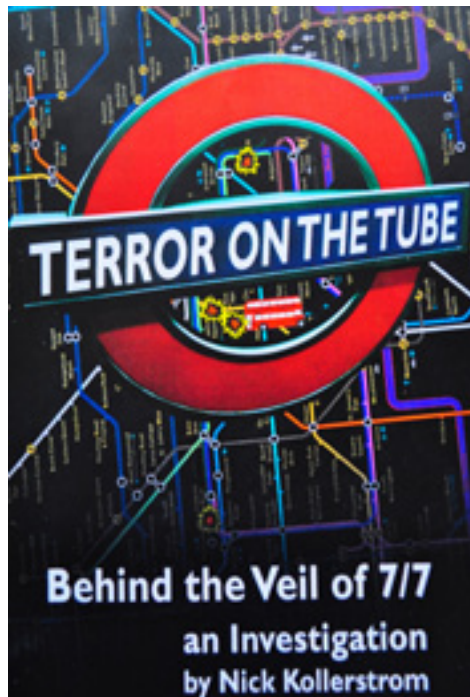
- A number of 7/7 critics have been fired from their jobs or jailed without cause – and one even died mysteriously after being put in a mental hospital and given large doses of powerful anti-psychotic drugs.

- Britain’s judiciary and news media both disgraced themselves by aiding and abetting the government in covering up the 7/7 fraud instead of maintaining their independence and pursuing the truth regardless of the consequences.

- A series of phony “terror threats” were staged in cities across Britain in the days before and after July 7th, 2005, to make it easier for the authorities to “sell” the 7/7 lies to the public.

- The same type of tricks used by the U.S. authorities to “sell” the 9/11 fraud to the American public were also used to “sell” the 7/7 fraud to the British public.

Gordon Pollard, who is a native of Victoria, has a MA in History from Columbia University in New York City and a BA in History and English from the University of Victoria. After working for 10 years as a journalist in B.C., Alberta, and Ontario, Gordon spent 20 years teaching English and History in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka.



Happy Canada Day?

by Richard Clemens

As the Queen of England spends billions of the “commonwealth” i.e. the public purse on her jubilee and Victoria celebrates its 150th year since HER colonization and almost (?) genocide of the Songhees Nation and Coast Salish/Samish Territories, and Canada blows out the candles for another million dollar birthday bash, I ask and/or scream “What is there to celebrate this year Canada?” The criminalization of poverty in B.C.? Fracking and gold mining up North? The growing number of Tar Sands in Alberta? Pesticides in Saskatchewan? Monsanto in Manitoba? The criminalization of protesting (assembling) in Quebec? The O.P.P & Stephen Harper in Ontario? Enbridge’s brand new \$35 million dollar public subsidized prison contract in Nova Scotia (possibly the first for-profit prison system in Canada) UNDER THE JUST PASSED Bill C-10 of the Ominous Crime Bill? Fishing industry in New Brunswick and Newfoundland?

Are we celebrating democracy in Canada? Hypocrisy? Afghanistan? Libya? Syria? NATO? NAFTA? C.E.T.A.? Privatization of water and/or the dismantling of the Canadian Wheat Board? Robert Pickton, Lt. Russell Williams and the like? R.C.M.P.? All the Canadian police (G20 and/or Occupy Canada) who took off their badges on duty and/or beat up and/or sprayed mace into the faces of defenceless and peaceful men & women & children protesting injustice? A fundamental right in Canada? C’MON!

Are we celebrating the “chemical trails” in the sky? And/or global warming/global dimming (DVD)? Kyoto? Unmanned Canadian remote control assassinations? WWII? Are we celebrating the Canadian contribution to the mass hysteria and their/our/your gullibility and/or ignorance? Rupert Murdoch & Conrad Black and company and/or the Canadian mainstream press and their phony and crony so-called journalists? (stereotype?) Please!

Are we celebrating the way we/you/they/us are treating First Nations communities in Canada and/or elders and/or the way they/you/me/us are treating the youth and future generations of Canadians, those whom are in the most in need of guidance and love and compassion and respect? Should we celebrate our contributions to the global collective insanity and/or hockey, burgers & beer? Our BIG stinking cars/trucks and/or mile long televisions? A kind of sad sitcom psychosis, a television psychology bordering on commercial madness? Globalization pseudo-capitalism bordering on fascism? The shrinking of the public spaces? What exactly were you/we/us celebrating and getting all excited for? Seriously though . . . our apparent support for the Communist Party of China? and/or Israel? and/or U.S.A.’s war machines and/or fears and paranoia’s post 911 madness? The military industrial complex? NORAD? U.S.A.’s war machines?

Am I stereotyping and/or stigmatizing* Canada? I don’t think so. . . maybe, but . . . (devil’s advocate) . . . there must be a reason that things and/or people who get stigmatized and/or stereotyped are called cliches? . . . Isn’t there? . . . Well, yes, but . . . Happy Birthday KKKCanada. I will pray for you/ us/them!

So, what is stigma and where does it come from and who gets stigmatized and/or stereotyped in cities all across Canada? Why? What role does the media play in stigmatization and/or stereotyping and what effect does that have on you/us/me/them’s/ communities?? This year I WILL celebrate the FREEDOM to REBEL and SPEAK my MIND! And Freedom to Assemble?! (Occupy Wall Street/Canada) and the Freedom to SHATTER STIGMAS through ART and EXPRESSION and peaceful protest and an independent media and the right and/or FREEDOM to criticize and debate. The Freedom to seek the Truth and/or the apparent truth! etc etc. DIG? STOP! I will celebrate life and/or God’s mystery and madness and with love and respect and awe.

* According to wikipedia, stigma is the liturgy of the Greek words sigma and tau, which was used in writing Greek between the Middle Ages and the 19th century. The name stigma is originally a common Greek noun meaning “a mark, dot, puncture.” These days, the most common form of Stigma is social stigma. Next issue I will write about the stigma surrounding the downtown core and try to figure out where this stigma comes from. The media? Human nature? Is it policy? Conspiracy? Part of this post 911 hysteria and paranoia? Stay tuned for Pt. 2. Don’t Believe the Hype! Fear and Loathing in the Downtown Core. Smarten up Canada!

lovesandrespectsxoxo’ ‘hi’chka’ (Coast Salish/Samish pronounced word for thank-you and/or respect.)

Richard “Rocket” Clemens.



National Aboriginal Day Celebration at Our Place

article and photos by Jennifer Hastie

Wow! The excitement created by the celebration of National Aboriginal Day (June 21st) down at Our Place was very much like one of our national holidays. The pride among the First Nations peoples was very much in evidence. It felt good to be part of that atmosphere.

National Aboriginal Day is celebrated right across Canada. This recognition by Canada is fairly new. In our city, although Our Place supplies friendship and food to all needy people throughout the year, on June 21st they choose to honour our many native peoples, especially those who live on the streets of Victoria or who are in poor housing.

The celebration took place over breakfast, lunch, and supper. I came for the lunch festivities. I wore my *Street Newz* T-shirt. It was the right thing to do, for it showed the many people there why I was taking pictures. In fact, people were full of smiles for me, encouraging me to come to the front of any group to create a better angle for my pictures.

A national Insurance broker firm, the AON, (formerly AIG), donated their staff for a day to cook the hamburgers and hot dogs, as well as to serve salads, dessert, soft drinks and water. Our Place staff prepared the food that this business organization paid for.

We waited approximately 1 ½ hours in line for our



lunch. To entertain us while we waited, the Esquimalt native dancers gave an excellent performance. At the start, one of the dancers, probably the lead dancer, came over to a paralyzed elder in a wheel chair and paid homage to her. At the end of their performance, he came again and kneeled before her, reaching out to take her hand. It was very moving for us to witness.

Later on, while some people were still waiting for their lunch, others participated singing and drumming.

The food was excellent, certainly, a cut above any fast food restaurant. The large crowd—about 1000 people, some of us estimated—were present. Many Nuu-chah-nulth-aht, originally from the north and west coast of Vancouver Island, were there.

With the exception of two minor incidents, all people that I could see patiently waited for their food. I was impressed, because many had probably not eaten breakfast, having been used to having lunch here daily at 11:30 a.m.

I remain impressed with the very important role that Our Place plays in the rehabilitation of our homeless and near-homeless. One man that I spoke to, for example, said that he had a job, but his take-home pay did not cover the cost of food. Therefore, he comes to Our Place for meals. Another man told me that he looks forward to socializing with people down here, that it “keeps him going.” In addition, there are services that marginalized people can access to help them with health, keeping as clean as possible, and using the social services when they are ready to take that first step toward rehabilitation.

Although the Our Place building has taken on a very professional feel today, it remains a place where any marginalized person can go and feel part of a huge “family.” But on this very special day, Aboriginal Day, the atmosphere was festive and fun for all of us.

Jennifer Hastie is a non-native writer, living in Victoria, who enjoys reporting on First Nations concerns and events.

The Plight of Roma Gypsies

article and photos by Stefano Leonardi



Roma Gypsies and their camps have been present in Italy since the Middle Ages. A significant number of Europe’s 12 million Roma are living in deplorable conditions, with 160,000 Roma Gypsies currently living in Italy. Almost half of those have Italian citizenship.

Bearing the brunt of persecution, particularly since the Nazi era, Roma Gypsies in France and Italy have recently been the target of forced evictions and deportations to Eastern Europe. The Roma are living in camps on the edge of Italian and French cities but vigilante groups have, over the past few years, burnt down or attacked Roma camps in the north and south of Italy. The Mayor of Rome has instigated the demolition of 200 Roma camps.

Roma Gypsies trying to survive in and around Venice are socially marginalised and segregated. The mayor of Venice seems intent on maintaining this as status quo, recently announcing plans for building a Roma village that will offer every guarantee of ‘separateness’ from its non-Gypsy neighbours. The Roma Gypsies are left to beg on the streets from tourists and search in rubbish bins for food.

Stefano Leonardi (www.stefanoleonardiphotography.com) is a photographer concerned about the plight of Roma Gypsies and others suffering persecution and social marginalisation throughout Europe and around the world.



BC Peace River Valley: Sacred Headwaters

by Don Startin

For the next few months we can stand down on the Site C Dam until the actual assessment panel is selected, and sends out details of its hearings itinerary. However, we can expect the madman Harper’s stooges in Ottawa to monkey with the process when the iniquitous Bill C33 is passed into law. We must be alert to a speed up.

Ever since I retired I have been hoping to “lay down my sword and shield down by the riverside,” but there always seems to be some great issue that makes this impossible. The north western corner of BC is still a virtually untouched wilderness the size of Oregon. Right in the middle of it is the hamlet of Deas Lake located on the Cassiar Highway which runs from around Hazelton on Highway 16 to

Watson Lake in the Yukon.

Deas Lake used to be the northern terminus of B.C. Rail until the northern extension was decommissioned. Thirty miles south of Deas Lake is another hamlet called Iskut. These two settlements form the main area where the Thaltan First Nation have lived since time immemorial, hunting, gathering, and fishing for the salmon that spawn in the headwaters of the Stikine, Nass, and Skeena Rivers. In pre-contact times they were also a great trading nation, and controlled the obsidian fields of Mount Edziza. This obsidian was exported as far away as the Prairies. These three amazing, and still wild, rivers rise within a few miles of each other southeast of Iskut and the area is known as

the Sacred Headwaters, which truly is the Serengeti of North America. Not far away are to be found the headwaters of the Liard and Findlay rivers.

Due to its isolation, the Sacred Headwaters remained more or less inviolate until the construction of the Cassiar Highway, and intensive mineral prospecting by float plane and helicopter, as a result of which several illegal large mines and a coalbed methane project are in the works. They are illegal because they have been rendered so by the Thaltan Elders Statement of February 5th 2005 which reads in part “We declare a complete moratorium on resource development ... all [previous] agreements with industry and government are hereby

declared void.”

I urge readers to do an internet search for “First Nations Land Rights and Environmentalism in British Columbia,” and to give at least a first reading to The Sacred Headwaters by Wade Davis. This is a \$52 book, but you can sit in a nice chair at Bolen Books, and sneak a peek at an autographed copy. The Greater Victoria Public Library also has a copy with a long waiting list.

In August I hope to fill you in on the threat posed by the Royal Dutch Shell Coalbed Methane project, and the Red Chris Mine.

Don Startin is an activist and gardener, an ex-military mannow living a life of simplicity with his wife in Victoria, BC.

Pipeline jobs for US vets *continued from cover*

But Worrell denies the ad is related to pipeline jobs specifically. “This is infrastructure, roads, downtown development” across the Edmonston region, she says. “It has nothing to do with Keystone.”

“A couple of oil and gas companies have been approached to get involved here in the coming weeks, just to discuss how they can get involved,” Worrell adds.

Is Enbridge one of the companies? “Not that I know of,” Worrell responds.

However, three of the first six skilled trades positions advertised -- Journeyperson Pressure Pipe Welder, Journeyperson Steamfitter-Pipefitter, and Journeyperson Structural Ironworker -- are located in a pipeline-building facility in Nisku, Alberta.

And as the Globe and Mail notes, the Enbridge pipelines would be built in Nisku.⁴

Zoe Blunt founded Vancouver Island Community Forest Action Network in 2006. She lives in Victoria. This story was originally published at Vancouver Media Coop and is reprinted with permission.

Sources:

¹ *Enbridge on the defensive with \$5-million advertising blitz*: www.canada.com/Enbridge+defensive+with+million+advertising+blitz/6903932/story.html

² VetJobs: www.vetjobs.com/

³ Veterans of Foreign Wars: www.vfw.org/News-and-Events/Articles/2012-Articles/CANADA-WANTS-U-S-VETERANS-FOR-PIPELINE-WORK/

⁴ *Oil sands fuel a new manufacturing boom - in Alberta*: theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/economy/manufacturing/oil-sands-fuel-a-new-manufacturing-boom-in-alberta/article2359563/?service=mobile

Editor’s note: In related newz, *Canadian Progressive World* has exposed a direct link between the federal government, Enbridge, and the Prison Industrial Complex. In an article titled *Enbridge executive’s company awarded first crime Bill C-10 \$38.5-million prison project*,¹ it’s revealed that J. Richard Bird is a former member of the Minister of Finance Advisory Committee on Financing (2009 - early 2010). He’s listed on Enbridge’s website as the “Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Development, responsible for all financial affairs of the company and corporate planning, mergers, acquisitions and corporate development.”² And he’s been a “Trustee of Bird Construction Inc. since December 1987.”³ Bird Construction “has been awarded the contract to build the \$38.5-million North East Nova Scotia Correctional Facility in Nova Scotia. The 200-bed facility is due to open in 2014.”⁴

¹ www.canadianprogressiveworld.com/2012/07/05/enbridge-executives-company-awarded-first-bill-c-10-38-5-million-prison-project/

² www.enbridge.com/InvestorRelations/CorporateGovernance/ExecutiveManagement/J-Richard-Bird.aspx

³ investing.businessweek.com/research/stocks/people/person.asp?personId=280450&ticker=ENB:US

⁴ www.canadianprogressiveworld.com/2012/07/05/enbridge-executives-company-awarded-first-bill-c-10-38-5-million-prison-project/

From PacificWild.org:

“We have the opportunity to set an example here. To show how we deal with the last few wild places on our planet and more importantly, for how we honour and respect the rights and traditions of First Nations and all indigenous people. I strongly urge you to have the foresight and ingenuity to move forward with a plan that will move British Columbia, and Canada, into the future instead of clinging to the status quo.”

Take Action. Prepare an oral statement to present to the Joint Review Panel in Vancouver or Victoria. Sign up for a timeslot before September 30th. Write letters to elected officials, and newspapers.

Visit pacificwild.org for more information



Caravan to Wet’suwet’en to Stop the Pipelines

On August 4, the caravan leaves Victoria and Vancouver for the camp in northern BC August 6-10. Clans in the Wet’suwet’en Nation have invited activists from the South Coast to join the third annual Unis’tot’en Action Camp in the path of the pipelines.

Pacific Trails Pipeline company wants to start bulldozing the pipeline route in early August. The native leaders plan to send the company back to wherever it came from.

Forest Action Network (FAN) is coordinating rideshares, food, shelter, and workshops for the camp. A couple of seats are still available; sign up at wildcoast.ca/caravan.

How you can support this epic project:

- Contribute to our canned food drive
- Donate online at wildcoast.ca.

Big thanks to No One is Illegal Vancouver, the UVic Students of Colour Collective, UVic Sustainability Program, and Council of Canadians for sponsoring the caravan and camp.

‘Safer for All’ -

community power to end the criminalization of poverty in Victoria
by Mark Willson & Ashley Mollison

Wow...it’s already been *eight months* since the Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group (VIPIRG) released a report about police abuse and harassment of people who are street-involved in Victoria. Among a bunch of other events: we presented the report to the police board and to community groups; we delivered 400 postcards to City Hall signed by community members demanding an end to the criminalization of poverty in Victoria; community members concerned about these abuses packed city hall *twice* (in March and June) to kick-start the process of changing policing practices to make our city a safer place for everyone.

What’s changed since then?

NOT MUCH, if we’re talking about **meaningful changes in our institutions**, such as:

- Cutting the police budget (it’s currently a whopping 33% of municipal property taxes)
- Repealing bylaws that encourage discrimination against people who are street-involved (ie. 09-079 -- Victoria’s infamous ‘chattel’ bylaw), or
- Forcing police to keep records of stops and detainments that don’t lead to arrest, a primo form of harassment that is completely invisible under our current system (ie. issue ‘contact receipts’ for everyone who is stopped or temporarily detained).

A HELL OF A LOT, if we’re talking about **building and strengthening community networks**, and working together to end the blatant forms of discrimination at work in the policing and criminalization of poverty in Victoria. These include:

- Developing an **Affidavit program** to record instances of police abuse of people who are street-involved with Pivot Legal Society, Society of Living Illicit Drug Users (SOLID), Together Against Poverty Society (TAPS), Harm Reduction Victoria (HRV), Vancouver Island Human Rights Coalition (VIHRC), and Allies of Drug War Survivors. This is modeled on Pivot’s 2002 affidavit program that made police brutality in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside a big issue, and led to Jamie Graham’s resignation as Vancouver’s Chief of Police in 2007.



- Working with City of Victoria Youth Council on a ‘**Community Action Plan to End Discrimination**’ that we expect to be endorsed by City Hall in the Fall. This is much like the ‘homeless bill of rights’ recently passed in Rhode Island and the ‘zero tolerance of social & racial profiling’ recently passed in Montreal.

- Partnering with Social Coast and the Community Social Planning Council on the **Community Includes Everyone sign campaign**. This project succeeded in having 50 local businesses post signs promoting compassion, respect, dignity and justice as a creative response to the anti-loitering “Private Property” signs posted throughout the downtown core.

- Making connections with the BC Civil Liberties Association and Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU) to discuss strategies to strengthen community oversight of policing. A highlight was the need to create a grassroots community-driven body to give voice to local issues and to make sure these issues are addressed. One model for this is **Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood Council**.

This is just some of the background work brewing this summer, and it’s been inspiring to see the great work of a whole range of community organizations (such as the Committee to End Homelessness’ *Taking the Fall* film project, and the Community Social Planning Council’s *CAP on Poverty*) coming together in pushing for concrete changes to the way we deal with poverty here in Victoria.

This is all going to make for an action-packed Fall! In the meantime, expect updates by late summer on the affidavit program and where you can go to add your experiences of police harassment or abuse to a growing body of evidence about unacceptable policing practices in Victoria.

Contact safer-for-all@vipirg.ca for more info, to get updates, or to join in on these and related projects.

Ashley Mollison and Mark Willson are Safer for All campaign organizers.

Chris Johnson on "Affordable Housing."

"Usually, around here, it means around \$800-900 for a studio ('micro-loft') or 1 bedroom. This is affordable at average wages, and definitely, the average person is looking for something that they can afford. I prefer to use the measure of 33% of one's income. If you are earning minimum wage, affordable housing thus becomes around \$547/month. A \$900 'affordable' housing unit is thus affordable for someone making \$17/hr. If you are on welfare, 'affordable' housing should be \$200/month."

"I think part of the reason some folks believe that homelessness is a choice that lazy people make is that the thought that any of us can end up suffering to this degree is a terrifying thought, one best not considered. They want to believe hard work will save them because they can't bear to imagine the horror of homelessness."

To read more of Chris' astute observations visit his blog at bullsheet.wordpress.com.



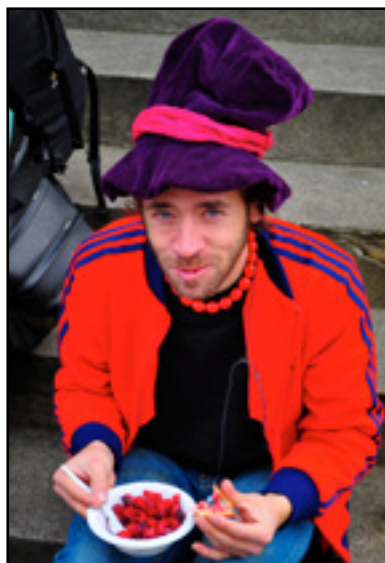
Free Healthy Food!

Victoria Food Not Bombs is looking for volunteers who are willing to help cook, serve food & clean up on Sundays. We use a different kitchen every week and start cooking around 11am-noon & serve food on Pandora & Vancouver under the sequoia around 3:30 pm. We also need people to collect food from stores, farms & markets on Saturdays.

Please phone 250 388-5144 box # 1940 on Saturday for the location of the kitchen. You can also Email vicfnb@lists.resist.ca and ask to be put on our list serve to receive updates.

We serve mostly vegan dishes with local produce to 20-40 people every week.

Thanks for joining an active & committed group of people!



Seeking Submissions for Working Class Vegan Zine

We are seeking submissions for a zine on being both working class and vegan, to decenter veganism away from the politics of privilege and consumerism.

For many of us, buying whatever we want, flying around to animal rights conferences, or going to this or that vegan band's reunion in another country or state is simply not an option. For many of us who struggle with poverty as a lived experience the middle class liberal politics of voting with your dollars and buying overpriced fancy over-packaged goods is alienating and unrealistic. For many of us the food bank is our grocery store and dumpster diving after a house show isn't something you do to be cool, it is something you do simply cause you can't afford to buy good food. Our hope is that the zine will help to be a resource of lived experiences for those who can't relate to the mainstream vegan middle class clique, and that it would be full of useful strategies for coping with poverty while maintaining a vegan way of living.

The term 'working class' is ambiguous and many people use it to mean different things. For the context of this zine the term working class will refer to people who work dead end jobs at near minimum wage, or live on welfare or disability, or who struggle to pay rent each month, or are living on the streets or in homeless shelters. We are not referring to people who work high paid union jobs or work as roughnecks in the oil patch or logging industries. The point is to share the experiences of those who have struggled economically just to meet their basic needs yet feel maintaining a plant based diet is important to them.

Submissions should be between 1/2 a page to 5 pages in length (single spaced). We are open to many formats, from personal stories, to personal essays, to critiques, poetry, recipes, cartoons, jokes, or rants and tips. You can write about your struggles with food, or with mainstream liberal vegans, working with animals, why a plant based diet is important to you, nutrition, activism, wild harvesting, dumpster diving, or about how you have navigated the various barriers to eating healthy on a low budget and useful skills or information you have learned along the way.

Send submissions by September 30th to workingclassvegan@hotmail.com



Committee to End Homelessness Website Launch!

We are activists who have been meeting since 2006.

We bring together homeless, formerly homeless, and housed allies to find solutions and press for change.

We challenge the actions of our politicians, bureaucrats, service providers and the police.

We listen to the concerns voiced by people living on the streets and others who experience homelessness in Victoria, and we promise to take action by bringing their concerns to the attention of those who can act and make a positive difference in their lives.

Everyone is welcome! Always good snacks!

We meet at:

Silver Threads: 1728 Douglas Street, Victoria
and at Our Place Chapel on 2nd floor, 919 Pandora Street, Victoria

We meet every Wednesday of every month, all year long:

Week 1: at Silver Threads, from 7- 8:30 pm

Week 2: at Our Place Chapel, from 1 – 2:30 pm

Week 3: at Silver Thread, from 7-8:30 pm

Week 4: at Our Place Chapel, from 1:30-3:00 pm

Week 5: (When there is one) at Silver Threads, from 7-8:30 pm

More information is available at committeetoendhomelessnessvictoria.wordpress.com



Casserole Nights in Canada

From their handout:

Casseroles Night in Canada is an expression of solidarity with Quebec students, opposition to Quebec's Bill 78, and opposition to the Harper government's omnibus budget.

Since Bill 78 has become law in Quebec, freedom to protest is under attack. Any gathering of 50 people or more is considered illegal, unless the civil authorities agree. Organizers must first seek the approval of the local police at least 8 hours in advance, and provide the route of the rally, names of participants, etc. The police reserve the right to deny a request and render it illegal. The city of Montreal has made it illegal to wear masks in a protest. Any person who organizes a demonstration, or invites a person (including on Twitter) to participate in a demonstration can be criminalized making them liable to a fine of \$1,000 to \$125,000.

Casserole demonstrations are peaceful, community oriented expressions of joyful resistance, and are family friendly. In Victoria we're thrilled to be joining citizens in small and large cities across Canada and as far away as New York, Mexico City, Brussels and Berlin, to show that we are united in our support for Quebec students and opposition to the austerity agenda.

Join us Wednesday nights throughout the summer. Check our Facebook page - Victoria Casseroles.

Police handling of Casserole Protestors:

On July 9th independent journalist David Ball interviewed Anushka Nagji on Co-op Radio after she was beaten by police during a Casserole Event. To date there have been 12 arrests and police presence, and violence, is escalating. Anushka studies law at UBC, she's been arrested twice, and most recently she was held overnight and badly injured.

During the radio interview Anushka explained: "We've been gathering together to bang pots and pans and to take the streets and protest not only the education cuts in Quebec and BC, but to talk about things like capitalism and democracy." On June 27th a small group gathered in the park in front of the Art Gallery, and there was a 2-1 ratio of police (about 40 police) to protestors. They've noticed the police presence increasing and becoming more aggressive, so decided to record badge numbers. As they approached the officers, one put his hand on his gun. Another became immediately aggressive and immediately tried to grab Anushka. "I was completely isolated, surrounded by 6 or 7 officers," she told David, and witnessed police officers knocking other protestors to the ground and arresting them. All this happened before the demonstration had even begun. "It seemed that the police officers were quite touchy, and quite ready to be aggressive and arrest," Anushka said.

The group moved to the police station, to show solidarity with those arrested. Again people were thrown to the ground and kneed in the back, and five more were arrested. Police were in full force outside the jail, Anushka said, so the protestors started walking back and forth across the crosswalk to claim the street, demanding to know the police why their friends were arrested. When the police went inside the building, a large truck charged forward as if it was going to run over the protestors. The police returned and got aggressive again, Anushka explained, "one of the women who was using the crosswalk was roughly taken away," and other "women were thrown around, one was thrown to the ground and suffered bruised ribs and wrists ... I personally ... was picked up by the neck and thrown quite viciously against the side of this cement thing." Anushka talked about being picked up again and thrown to the ground after she was able to get up from the first thrashing. After being taken inside the station she was thrown to the ground and kneed in the back, forcibly searched and kept overnight. She was arrested on police assault charges and obstruction, and has been redzoned from downtown Vancouver and the DTES.

On his facebook page David later wrote: "Vancouver police admitted its Staff Sgt. Ken Athans just returned from training in Montreal on crowd control when the arrests started here."

Listen to the full audio podcast at coopradio.org or look for Casserole groups on Facebook.

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	May	June	July
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Donations	10.00	156.00	560.00
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Co-ordinator's Contribution	118.13	-247.50	282.36
Subscriptions	105.00	35.00	35.00
Bread & Roses Donation to SNZ	800.00	800.00	800.00
Total Street Newz Revenue	1455.93	1301.00	2203.86
Street Newz Expenses			
Salaries	800.00	800.00	800.00
Paper & Printing Costs	358.40	0.00	234.08
Office expenses/website	40.00	40.00	105.00
Vendor/Writer Meetings	75.00	65.00	406.00
Postage	77.53	45.00	73.78
Ttl Street Newz Expenses	1350.93	950.00	1618.86
Street Newz	105.00	351.00	585.00
Bread & Roses Revenue			
Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Bread & Roses Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bread & Roses Expenses			
Street Newz Donation	800.00	800.00	800.00
Ttl Bread & Roses Expenses	800.00	800.00	800.00
Bread & Roses	-800.00	-800.00	-800.00
Consolidated Ttl (SNZ + B&R)	-695.00	-449.00	-215.00
Bread & Roses Bank Balance	6552.16	6848.43	6084.52
Conference Fund	110.00	110.00	110.00

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